

KHARI MOSLEY: Good afternoon. My name is Khari Mosley. I'm the Pennsylvania Regional Program Manager for Blue Green Alliance. In 2006 the United Steelworkers and the Sierra Club formed the Blue Green Alliance with the belief that creating good jobs and protecting the environment were not mutually exclusive. We can and must do both. The Blue Green Alliance believes that the concentrated overall of this program is not only an opportunity to fix a broken system, but also an opportunity to take a hard look at how coal-dependent communities, regional economies and individual workers can transition to new economic models. The review of the federal coal leasing systems must evaluate BLM authority and opportunities, as well as actions of other agencies and Congress could take, to help ensure a just transition for workers and communities to a clean energy economy. Such actions should include robust investment in community economic development, protection of worker livelihoods, and development of new tax revenue sources for local economies. A combination of factors is forging a new reality where lower gas prices, rising coal costs, and the competitive cost of renewable energy sources are driving a shift to clean energy. The new energy technologies coming on-line will create hundreds of thousands of new jobs and will continue to do so in communities across the country. But, as our nation makes this transition, some workers and communities may be impacted. Coal mines, coal-fired power plants, coal transportation infrastructure, coal handling facilities and their associated supply and maintenance industries are often the lifeblood of small towns, providing significant employment and contributing to their communities' tax base. Moving toward clean energy could result in fewer jobs at a local level and a reduction in the tax stream going to local governments in these communities. Therefore, we must consider what authority and opportunities the federal government possesses, having succeeded in capturing a fair return for extracted coal, to ensure that some portion of that increased return is put to use ensuring a just transition for workers, communities and regional economies occurs. BLM has sought comment as to whether the extraction of fossil resources from federal Lands is consistent with U.S. climate goals. In order to better understand and manage carbon emissions from public lands, the U.S. Geological Survey intends to establish and maintain a public database to account for annual carbon emissions from fossil fuels developed on federal lands. The Blue Green Alliance supports this effort to ensure a transparent process that accounts for costs, which would otherwise be

externalized. In summary, we thank the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Department of Interior for seeking to improve the federal coal leasing system and look forward to continuing to work with your agencies on the eventual implementation of a modernized and improved system both to serve the interests of American communities, workers, taxpayers and our national environment. Thank you.